REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14-18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 remain pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14-18, 22, 24, and 26 presently stand rejected. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,515 to Rajgopal et al. ("Rajgopal") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,579 to Beausang, in further view of "Validation and Test Generation for Oscillatory Noise in VLSI Interconnects" by Arani Sinha et al. ("Sinha").

In the Final Office Action mailed February 18, 2004, the Examiner stated that "[t]he evidence submitted is insufficient to establish a reduction to practice of the invention ... prior to the effective date of the November 1999 reference." Furthermore, the Examiner noted that the Declaration was only signed by one of the three co-inventors.

Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a new Declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131, swearing behind the November, 1999 publication date of Sinha. In light of the enclosed Declaration, Sinha may not be relied upon as prior art under § 103(a). Since the Examiner acknowledges that, "the *Rajgopal et al.* reference does not expressly disclose the limitation concerning analysis of domino circuits wherein each domino circuit is simulated in a specific order and the next domino circuit is analyzed using as an input the output of the last domino circuit that was analyzed and reporting results of the simulation indicating whether any of the domino logic circuits are likely to generate an erroneous output" (*Office Action* mailed September 29, 2003, page 5, section 3.1), the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest all elements of independent claims 1, 4, 10, 15, and 17, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103(a) rejections of claims 1, 4, 10, 15, and 17 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 are nonobvious over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further

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limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant §
103 rejections for claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 be
withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the enclosed Declaration and foregoing remarks, Applicants believe
the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application
are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a
Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for
any reason.

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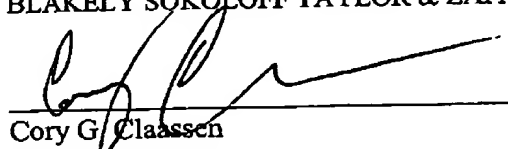
CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: April 16, 2004

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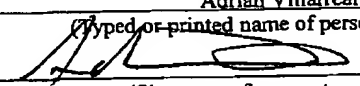Phone: (206) 292-8600

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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